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10 OCT 1958

ROUTINE

TO: [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

FOR: [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

ECE RES DEL GENEVA AIRGRAMME OF 9 OCTOBER ADVISES THAT FRED STRAUSS MAKING TENTATIVE PLANS FOR MEETING OF BLOC AND WESTERN ECONOMISTS AT TIME OF NEXT ECE PLENARY SESSION FOR OFF-THE-RECORD CLOSED DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO EAST AND WEST. AIRGRAMME STATES THE MEETING WOULD NOT DISCUSS ECONOMIC SURVEY EXCEPT POSSIBLY METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED BUT RATHER SUCH QUESTIONS AS EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, GENERAL PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, ETC. STRAUSS SAID TO BELIEVE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN BLOC AND WESTERN ECONOMISTS MIGHT BE USEFUL. PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT STATE INITIAL REACTION IS STRONGLY NEGATIVE ESSENTIALLY ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. WE ON CONTRARY TEND TO VIEW SUCH INFORMAL DISCUSSION AS GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH SOVIET AND OTHER BLOC ECONOMISTS QUESTIONS OF TERMINOLOGY, METHODOLOGY AND CURRENT BLOC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND PROBLEMS. WE HOPE PERSUADE STATE NOT RPT NOT TO ASSUME ABSOLUTELY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE BUT AS MINIMUM TO INQUIRE FURTHER ABOUT PROPOSED AGENDA OF DISCUSSIONS. SUGGEST YOU TALK WITH DILLON IN BERLIN ALONG THIS LINE AND EXPLAIN OUR INTEREST AND NET ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED FROM SUCH OFF-THE-RECORD TALKS.

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